

Name: _____

Global I

Egyptian Society

Side 1

Historical Context: From 2700 BC, the lives of people in ancient Egypt were influenced by their religious beliefs.

Directions: Answer the questions below based on the respective documents.

Document #1

“Osiris, god of the dead and judge of people’s souls, would decide whether a person was a sinner or not when they died. Those who were judged to be sinners were fed to crocodile-shaped creatures named Eaters of the Dead. Worthy souls went to the Happy Field of Food.”

1. Did ancient Egyptians believe in life after death? _____. Explain: _____
_____.
2. Why do you think Egyptians did not revolt against their cruel pharaohs (king-gods)? _____
_____.

Document #2

“The huge tombs of Egyptian kings and pharaohs were often filled with fantastic riches as well as weapons, furniture, jewelry, toys, games and food. The dead bodies were buried with everything they would need for their next life.”

1. Why were Egyptians buried with so many different types of objects? _____
_____.
2. What two items would you want to be buried with? _____
_____.

Document #3

“To give a person’s soul the use of its body in the afterlife, bodies were mummified. All of a person’s internal organs were removed and the body was dried and wrapped in linen strips.”

1. Why were pharaohs’ bodies mummified? _____
_____.
2. How are ancient Egyptian burial rites similar to your own? _____
_____.

Side 2

Directions: Read the following statements. Complete the sentence at the end of the reading selection by choosing one of the following words from the word bank.

Word Bank – (1) Pharaoh [Egyptian king/god], (2) slave farmer, (3) high priest/priestess, (4) Scribe [official writer & record keeper], (5) merchant, (6) fisherman

“My life is so terrible that I only hope that the next life would be better. During the growing season, I must work long hours in the hot Egyptian sun, performing backbreaking labor. During the winter months, I must serve the Pharaoh and work in his palaces and temples.”

This speaker is probably _____

“My power here on Earth, like in the heavens is unlimited. I am not just a powerful ruler whose every word must be obeyed, but I am also a god. And as a god, as my earthy body dies, enormous pyramids must be built to honor me. If you disobey my commands, Osiris will judge you harshly.”

This speaker is probably _____

“Unlike so many fellow Egyptians, I have many skills. The most important one is that only I can keep records of different ceremonies as well as who had paid their taxes. Today most people in modern times have my skills, but back in the day, there were very few who had my skills.”

This speaker is probably _____

“Sometimes business is very slow and I don’t sell any papyrus (paper), robes or sandals. Luckily I always have many customers for my dried iced tea. Thank Osiris for having such a strong Egyptian sun, or I would be out of business.”

This speaker is probably _____

“Our day can be very hectic. In the morning we must make sacrifices to the Sun God, Amon-Re, in the afternoon we must make sacrifices to the goddess Isis, and finally in the evening we must make sacrifices to the god of the dead, Osiris. Everyday we must do these rituals.”

This speaker is probably _____

Which Egyptian social class belongs in each of the following positions

